

60TH
ANNIVERSARY
USAF
1947 - 2007

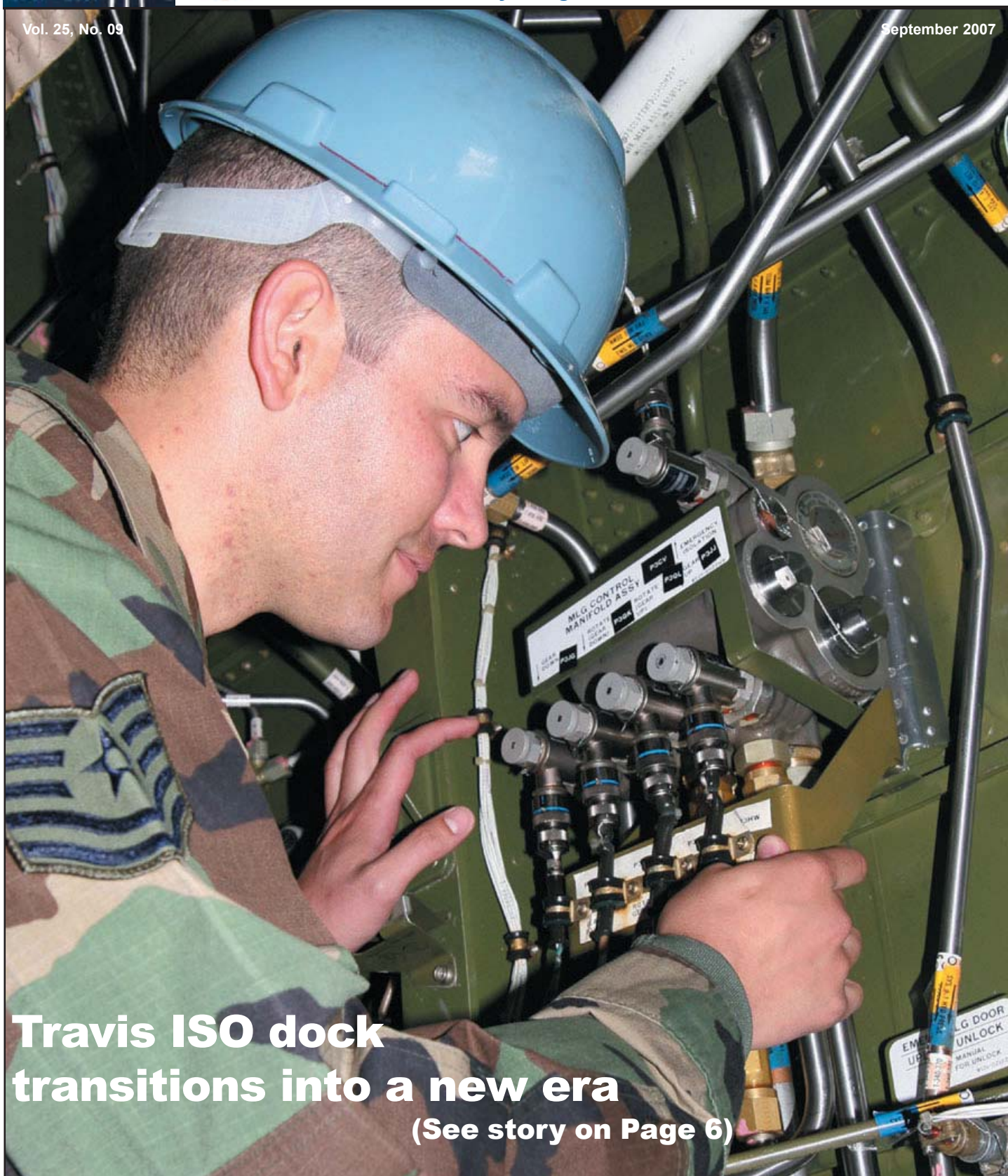
CONTACT



Magazine for and about Air Force Reserve members assigned
to the 349th Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base, California

Vol. 25, No. 09

September 2007



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Cover photo by Master Sgt. Wendy Weidenhamer,
349th Public Affairs

Checking it twice: Here during the last C-5 isochronal inspection at Travis AFB, Technical Sgt. Duncan Ballantyne, C-5 and C-17 Lead Technician for the 349th Equipment Maintenance Squadron Aircraft Inspection Section, inspects a C-5 Galaxy right aft main landing gear control manifold assembly for hydraulic leaks and to ensure all fittings are tight and properly secured. The responsibility for accomplishing the many inspections involved with isochronal inspections has recently been transferred to Dover AFB, Del., which will now be one of three regional "Iso" dock centers for the Air Force. The C-5 is a cargo aircraft and the biggest aircraft in the U.S. Air Force inventory.



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Missing your **CONTACT** magazine? The magazine is mailed each month to the address on file with Personnel Systems. If you aren't receiving your magazine, check with your orderly room or administration section to ensure your address is correct.

Let's celebrate "Heritage to Horizons"

The summer months have flown by and the wing was as active as ever with almost 500 members still on extended active duty, saying farewell to members retiring and greeting those members taking on new positions.

This month marks a historic moment in time for our Air Force – the celebration of 60 years of service to our country. The Air Force's 60th anniversary theme, "Heritage to Horizons" is a celebration designed to inform and educate the public about the important roles the Air Force continues to play in support of the nation's defense. Travis will commemorate 60 years of heritage with an anniversary ball on Sept. 14 in Hangar 818. The guest speaker for that event will be Jay Leno and I am sure everyone will have a spectacular time honoring our legacy in a way that only Airmen can.

Now I would like to address a policy change. The Air Force Reserve Command has directed that, in order to facilitate cohesion between the Reserve and active-duty component during increasing partnerships on 'tip-of-the-spear' type missions, air reserve technicians will wear military uniforms in civilian duty status. Prior to this directive, all ART officers and enlisted people were authorized to wear the uniform while in civilian duty status on

a voluntary basis. Air Force leadership wants reservists to be associated with the uniform for seamless interaction between Regular and Reserve components. AFRC plays a vital role within our Air Force. Being combat ready deployable warfighters is critical to the defense of the nation. Wear of the military uniform is reflective that AFRC is an integral part of the Air Force, and a vital part of the Total Force. The policy change is now official requiring non-bargaining unit ARTs to wear their military uniform while in civilian duty status. For bargaining unit ARTs we will complete the negotiation process with the union before implementation here at Travis. Local bargaining obligations must be satisfied before implementing any Air Force instruction requirements for bargaining unit employees. A requirement for ARTs represented by a bargaining unit to wear their military uniform full-time will take effect only after satisfaction of local labor relations obligations.

I want to ask each of you to stay vigilant in your training and operational risk management. It is imperative that we stay focused on the mission at hand so we do not miss any steps that may cause one of our members to be injured or worse. These challenges do not stop when we leave our units or pass beyond the base



By Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr.

gates. To work and play safely requires the personal commitment and accountability of every individual. Even though the 101 Critical Days of Summer are over it is still essential that you remember our goal is zero mishaps, on or off duty. With your continued commitment to managing the risks we face everyday, the Citizen Airmen of the 349th will remain always ready to fulfill our role as proud partners in America's defense.

One last item! Travis has experienced a serious increase in alcohol related instances. The majority of these are on the 60th AMW side of the house but we also have had some. All together this is 11 alcohol related occurrences in the last 45 days. I need everyone to make this a high priority - please do what it takes to ensure you do not drive drunk. Be responsible in your duties, be ready to work. Excessive alcohol consumption can have a very negative impact on the rest of your life. Do something positive to be a good wingman. It will make a difference!

We cannot choose our situation in life, only our attitude

by Chaplain (Maj.) Herbert Hodde, III
349th Air Mobility Wing

In my religious faith a story is told about a young Hebrew man named Joseph. God blessed Joseph with 12 brothers who in turn despised him greatly. Joseph went to deliver food and water to his brothers tending cattle; they grabbed him, threw him into an abandoned well, and desired to kill him had not his brother Judah interceded. After much deliberation they sold Joseph into slavery to a traveling Bedouin tribe bound for Egypt. When he arrived in Egypt, Joseph was once more sold into slavery. The captain in charge of protecting the Pharaoh, a man named Potiphar, purchased Joseph. Unfortunately for Joseph his situation went from bad to worse. Falsely accused of improper relations with Potiphar's wife, Joseph was cast into prison. Through a series of events ordained by God, Joseph one day stood before the mighty Pharaoh of Egypt to interpret a

dream. When asked if Joseph was capable, he replied, "No, but the God I serve is able to reveal to me the meaning of certain visions." Pharaoh was so impressed with this Hebrew's humble response and his ability to interpret the dream that he made him second in command over all Egypt.

The next seven years brought a season of bounty upon the land, one Egypt had never before experienced. Joseph, guided by his God, assisted the nation in storing up the bountiful harvest. The seven years of prosperity were followed by seven years of famine. During this time surrounding nations would send ambassadors to Egypt to trade for grain. One day Joseph's brothers stood before him yet failed to recognize the ruler. Later in private Joseph wept bitterly for the family from whom he was separated for many years. Finally, unable to control his emotions, Joseph revealed to his brothers his true identity. Frightened for their lives, they pleaded for Joseph to spare them. As they trembled before Pharaoh's second in

command he reminded them what they had intended for evil, his God had brought about for good.

This is one of my favorite stories in Scripture. It reminds me of many truths applicable today. First, we are unable to choose our circumstance. I'm sure if given the opportunity Joseph would not have chosen to live removed from family and loved ones. Secondly, although we cannot choose our circumstance, we can choose our attitude. There is an old saying which states, "He who angers you controls you." Joseph's performance impressed his captors.

Finally, and most importantly, Joseph viewed his circumstances as nothing less than divine intervention from a Holy God. His brothers intended to physically hurt him; however, Joseph focused on his creator and not the circumstance. We cannot choose our situation in life, only our attitude. And after all, it is our attitude, not our aptitude, which determines our altitude.

Buckle in with a bit of a grin, take off your coat and go to it

September and Labor Day are here, which traditionally signal the end of summer. Has the passing of time accelerated to the speed of light? It certainly feels that way. Hopefully you all had a wonderful summer and are ready to tackle the new fiscal year. In honor of Labor Day, I've included the following poem to celebrate our ability to roll up our sleeves and take on what "cannot be done."

IT COULDN'T BE DONE

by Edgar Guest

"Somebody said it couldn't be done,
But he with a chuckle replied
That "maybe it couldn't," but he would
be one
Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.
So he buckled right in with the trace of
a grin
On his face. If he worried he hid it.
He started to sing and he tackled the
thing
That couldn't be done, and he did it.

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do
that;

At least no one has ever done it";
But he took off his coat and he took off
his hat,
And the first thing we knew he'd begun
it.

With a lift of his chin and a bit of a
grin,
Without any doubting or quiddit,
He started to sing and he tackled the
thing

That couldn't be done, and he did it.
There are thousands to tell you it
cannot be done,

There are thousands to prophesy
failure;
There are thousands to point out to
you, one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,
Just take off your coat and go to it;
Just start to sing as you tackle the
thing



**By Command Chief Master Sgt.
Patricia A. Thornton**

That 'cannot be done,' and you'll do
it."

Our success as a wing can be directly
attributed to those of you who "buckle in
with a bit of a grin, just take off your coat
and go to it."

To celebrate your awesome attitude,
constant labor and efforts as well as our
award winners, we are hosting our Second
Annual Awards Military Ball, Friday, Oct.
19, at the Delta Breeze for all of you. Last
year's was spectacular, and this year's will
prove to be out of the park as well, so join
us for the celebration! See your respective
First Sergeants for more information and
tickets. Looking forward to seeing you
there!



349 AMW Annual Awards Ball

Oct. 19, 2007


**Delta Breeze Club Ballroom
Travis Air Force Base**

Social Hour begins at 6 p.m.

Special Guest Speaker:
Lieutenant General John A. Bradley
Commander, Air Force Reserve Command


☆☆☆

Honoring Those Who Serve



Prettier than a KC-10
fresh off the wash rack

Dancing to follow
ceremony
Featuring the
California Air National
Guard Band
Mess Dress or Semi-
Formal
\$35 for E-7 to E-9 and
Officers
\$25 E-5 & E-6 and \$15 E-4
& below
See your First Sergeant for
tickets



It will be bigger than
a fully loaded C-5



Slicker than a new C-17

Air Force Reserve changes rules to require technicians to wear uniforms full-time

When people visit an Air Force Reserve Command unit during the week in the coming months, they are likely to see more people in military uniforms.

The Air Force changed three of its instructions Aug. 7 to require all air reserve technicians to wear military uniforms rather than civilian clothes while working in civilian status. ARTs are full-time civilian employees who serve in the same job as Air Force reservists. They've been wearing uniforms when in military status.

"I believe wearing uniforms is an important step to being a full partner and Unrivaled Wingman in today's Air Force"

--Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley,
AFRC commander.

ARTs in some locations are already wearing their uniforms all of the time at work. Others haven't started wearing their uniforms everyday because they have not been required to do so.

"We want our ARTs to be in uniform because we are integrating with the Regular Air Force and Air National Guard throughout the Air Force," said Lt. Gen. John A. Bradley, AFRC commander. "Total Force Integration is changing how we interact with the rest of the Air Force.

"Even before 9/11, the regular component depended on us to get the job done," he said. "That dependency is growing because we cannot afford to do business as usual. We need to consolidate our forces and capitalize on each other's strengths."

As example of progress, General Bradley cited reservists preparing to fly F-22s with the Regular Air Force in Alaska, reservists flying their own C-17s in California and reservists standing up and managing a C-130 unit in North Carolina

with an active associate unit.

"We are able to take on new and challenging missions because of the skills and experience of our air reserve technicians," said Chief Master Sgt. Troy McIntosh, AFRC command chief master sergeant.

"Some technicians have told me they feel this uniform change is calling their military dedication or patriotism into question," said the chief. "That is not at all the case. Our technicians have proved themselves in the past and, I'm confident, they will continue to do so in the future."

General Bradley said the Air Force Reserve is entering a new era, which is vastly different than 1958, the year the air reserve technician program was created.

"I believe wearing uniforms is an important step to being a full partner and an Unrivaled Wingman in today's Air Force," said General Bradley.

The Air Force Reserve has about 1,335 ART officers and 8,400 ART enlisted people. (AFRC News Service)

AF JROTC hiring retiring Reserve members

by Patti Schwab-Holloway
349th Public Affairs

Air Force leadership recently announced with the passage of the 2007 National Defense Authorization Act Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps may now utilize retiring and retired 'gray area' Air Force Reserve and Guard members as AFJROTC instructors. In the 2007 NDAA, Congress approved the expansion of the AFJROTC program by 955 units. Qualified instructor applicants are needed immediately in order to fill these newly available instructor positions.

The mission of the AFJROTC instructor is to "Develop citizens of character dedicated to serving their nation and community" The objectives of program is to educate and train high school cadets in citizenship, promote community service, instill responsibility, character, and self-discipline, and provide instruction in air and space fundamentals.

The AFJROTC program is grounded in the Air Force core values of 'integrity first,

service before self, and excellence in all we do' and who better to teach these values but the men and women who have lived them, as Air Force Reserve members. Being a successful Reservist has always demanded a fine balancing act. Reserve members pride themselves on being an equal partner with their active duty counterparts: they look the same, they boast the same skills, and they integrate seamlessly into the whole framework of the military. Yet also they have the unique challenge of addressing the needs of family and civilian job with those of the Reserve. The curriculum emphasizes the Air Force heritage and traditions, the development of flight, applied flight sciences, military aerospace policies, and space exploration.

The program enrolls approximately 102,000 cadets, employs more than 1,700 instructors and operates units in 48 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Japan, Korea, and Guam. AFJROTC units are located within host high schools, public and private, and by

law, the program is limited to students in grades 9 – 12. AFJROTC instructors are employees of the host school with curriculum opportunities that include academic studies, character education, life skills education, leadership opportunities, team-building experiences, intramural competition and training opportunities.

In an effort to produce well-informed and helpful citizens, AFJROTC encourages its cadets to get involved in their local communities. This can be one of the most rewarding part of the AFJROTC experience. Cadet community projects are limited only by imagination - coordinating everything from car washes to Jog-A-Thons. Cadets also volunteer their time to support non-profit organizations such as the March of Dimes, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Adopt-a-Highway Program and the Special Olympics.

For current vacancies visit: www.afots.af.mil or for program information, view the AF JROTC DVD "Continuing to Serve" located on the wing admin, G: drive. (Information for this article compiled from AF JROTC brochure and web site.)

Making room for new kid on the block

Story and photo by
Master Sgt. Wendy Weidenhamer
349th Public Affairs

Recently the inspection team in the Travis Air Force Base C-5 Isochronal Inspection hangar backed out a C-5 Galaxy for the last time, making room for the KC-10 and the new kid on the block, the C-17 Globemaster III. With a leaner Air Force in view, the C-5 ISO Inspection functions at Travis AFB have transferred to Dover AFB, Del., which will be one of three regionalized isochronal inspections docks for the C-5s. The remaining two locations will be Westover Air Reserve Base, Mass., and West Virginia Air National Guard Base, W. Va.

A major force in making this transition happen has been inspection sections members from the 349th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, 349th Component Repair Squadron and 349th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, all Air Force reserve squadrons. The active duty members in the section have been short handed due to the "high ops tempo" so the reserve members have stepped in to insure success in the transition. Behind the scenes in a transition like this is a myriad of details involving the hangar and inspection personnel. For the hangar there were modifications required by the new aircraft such as power requirements and to acquire and place special equipment. Safety requirements such as markings for towing needed to be re-done and huge inspection stands re-positioned. Also, at the same time it was necessary to make arrangements to transport C-5 ISO dock equipment to squadrons that still have the C-5 aircraft.

"It's gone very well," said Master Sgt. Howard Cox, Inspection Section Chief for the 349th EMS, who participated in the planning and implementation of the ISO transition. "We've had a very good preplanning phase so transition wise we're on speed. Our target was July 1 to be fully out of the C-5 and integrated into the KC-10 and C-17 business."

Success of the transition can also be attributed to a repair process initiated by the Travis ISO dock that included having a member of the 349th Logistics Readiness Flight permanently assigned to the inspection section to handle supply

distribution. And for two and half years that person has been Master Sgt. Faith Hickok, Inventory Management Specialist.

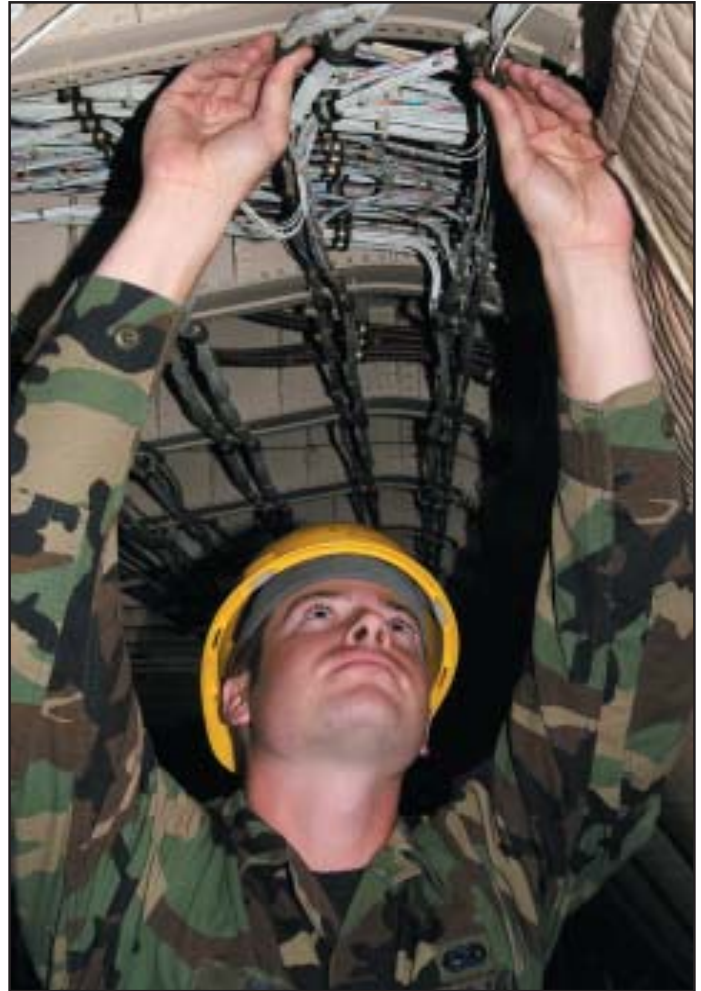
"The repair process starts with her," said Sergeant Cox. "We just couldn't do what we do without her; she has been a major cog in the machine ensuring the transition went smoothly."

In addition to closing down shop for the C-5 ISO at Travis and preparing for the C-17 and KC-10 ISOs, the inspection section has taken part in getting Dover AFB up to speed.

"Dover is ramping up their regionalized ISO Inspection program and of course we're giving them everything we have here to help them be successful there," said Sergeant Cox. "We've sent several folks there to sit in on conferences and get involved with the regionalized ISO for training and to share our best practices with Dover."

As for what tomorrow holds for the C-5 ISO dock and its crew, the hangar will be converted to a scheduled maintenance hangar for the C-17 and KC-10 aircraft, and there will be no personnel loss. Everyone who worked in the inspection section should make a straight transition to the new aircraft, said Sergeant Cox. Training is a big part of the transition for the inspection team. Forty people will need to be scheduled for training at the field training detachment, but the process could take some time due to limited availability of classes.

"It will change from a one-shift operation to a two-shift operation said,"



Senior Airman Marc Boone, 349th Equipment Maintenance Squadron, inspects a C-5 interior fuselage electrical wiring for deterioration.

said Sergeant Cox. "These folks are going over to work on the C-17 and KC-10 so they need the schooling initially. We're scheduling a year out for that right now."

Life in the inspection section will change a little too.

"We will fully integrate our training records, master training plan and our safety plans," said Sergeant Cox. "There will no longer be a 349th and 60th - they will be one. Previously 349th had their programs and 60th had their programs, which operated off of the same guidance and regulations."

This new way of completing ISO inspections will be evaluated by the Air Force and if it is a success, the AF may designate regionalized ISO docks for other aircraft in the inventory. (Note: Some information from this story was taken from the Air Force Reserve website.)

"Pen One, copy"- 45th APS keeps Reservist moving

*Story and photo by
Technical Sgt. Mary Beth Bemis
349th Public Affairs*

"Pen Three now departing 402," Technical Sgt. Charles Torio advises through his handheld walkie-talkie. "Pen One, copy," squawks back the answer among a chorus of walkie-talkie beeps and bleeps. And thus begins a typical weekend morning for the fly-in reservist. For the bus driver, it is just one of a series of events that happen over a standard Unit Training Assembly weekend.

For most of the drivers, their UTA weekend begins on the Friday prior, around 5 p.m. The weekend crew of usually four drivers show up to check-out the vehicles and do a safety inspection on each of the buses, then stand by for the arrival of aircraft carrying fly-in reservists.

The UTA bus drivers are all members of the 45th Aerial Port Squadron, at Travis. This assignment is a collateral duty for each trained driver. Master Sgt. Paul Ikeda is in charge of the weekend bus duty. Recently assuming the role of "Pen One"

Sergeant Ikeda usually works all three UTA weekends.

"I'm the Assistant NCOIC of cargo and my specialty is load planning," said Sergeant Ikeda.

On 'A' flight he works for his squadron doing his job, and on 'B' and 'C' flights he runs the base's bus transportation.

"I've got some really good people working with me," said Sergeant Ikeda of his bus team.

His regular team currently consists of Master Sgt. Randall Schroeder, Technical Sgt. Steve Moore, Staff Sgt. Robert Zumel and Senior Airman Mary Kay Olaes.

"They are professional, with great customer service aptitude and attitude, and are proficient as air transportation specialists, he said. It is important that the service provided is seamless - a driver must always think two or three steps ahead," said Sergeant Ikeda.

"A bus may break down, or something out of the ordinary may happen like a reservist leaving luggage on the bus or getting on the wrong plane," he said.

The main job concern Sergeant Ikeda expressed was safety of the passengers,

the drivers and the vehicles. Each driver must know their way around the base, understand passenger service procedures and flight line safety is paramount, he said.

Training each driver is very important. Not all job assignments consist of on base transportation. Each driver must also be comfortable in driving the bus outside of the gate in normal city and traffic conditions.

On Thursday before each UTA, Sergeant Ikeda receives the assignments from the wing vehicle control officer. Assignments can include everything from squadron exercises, reservist fly-ins, civic leader tours, and employer appreciation days, just to name a few.

Every weekend is different, said Sergeant Ikeda. One time they had to move 125 people for a squadron picture, he said. Other times they may be taking reservists to David Grant Medical Center for medical appointments or from lodging to their work center, Sergeant Ikeda said.

Drivers also receive last-minute requests throughout the normal duty day from the Wing Operations Center.

The days are long, said Sergeant Ikeda.

Sometimes on a Friday night the plane with the fly-in reservists may not land until really late at night or sometimes after midnight, he said, and our first run on Saturday morning is 6 a.m. Usually Saturday is a regular day, but the length of time worked on Sunday is mostly unknown, Sergeant Ikeda said. They remain on duty until the last plane of reservists leaves the ground, then the buses are checked and returned.

"Pen Three to Pen One, last run completed," the walkie-talkie squawks and beeps. "Pen One, copy," Sergeant Ikeda says, and smiles.



Roger, copy that: Technical Sgt. Charles Torio checks-in with a supervisor prior to departing the Westwind Inn, while fly-in reservist, Technical Sgt. David Staggs, looks on.

Hispanic Americans - a positive impact on society

by Staff Sgt. Tamara M. Potier
349th Military Equal Opportunity

Let's celebrate! ¡Celebremos! Sept. 15-Oct. 15 is National Hispanic Heritage month. The 2007 theme is "Hispanic Americans: Making a Positive Impact on American Society." What an awesome opportunity to recognize the collective contributions of the largest growing minority group in America. Whether through food, music, arts and sciences, or business and trade, the new



"Latino Hot" movement is swiftly creating a cultural exchange and moving the country.

As military servicemen and women, Hispanic Americans have risen to the occasion, serving the United States in the Department of Defense. They have served proudly in all U.S. wars, with numbers ranging from 9,900 in the Civil War to as many as 500,000 serving in World War II. During WWII, Mexican Americans were awarded the greatest number of Congressional Medals of Honor of any single minority in the United States. During the Korean and Vietnam Wars, the number of Hispanic Americans on the front lines was disproportionate to their population. As in past wars, many Hispanic Americans chose to serve in combat units like the Marines and paratroopers.

As of June 30, 2007, the total end strength of Active Duty Forces was 336,081 personnel. Hispanics make up 13.3 percent of this end strength, 3.9 percent of

the officer corps and 9.4 percent of the enlisted force. They make up 7.7 percent of total reserve forces with 67,228 participating members and 5.4 percent of Air Force reserve forces with 3,991 participating members. As this youthful population (40 percent under age 21) continues to grow it is evident that over the next 10 years, the representation of Hispanics in the Armed Forces will likely double.

With approximately 115,000 members throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, the League of United Latin American Citizens is the largest and oldest Hispanic organization in the United States. The organization's mission is to promote the advancement of economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of Hispanic Americans through community-based programs operating at more than 600 LULAC councils nationwide.

The 349th Air Mobility Wing here has

(See Positive on Page 11)

945th AMXS - music, unity, celebration, family

by Staff Sgt. Christopher T. Carlson
349th Family Readiness

Smoke, kites, music, unity, celebration and more. That is what was happening on July 14, at the 945th AMXS's squadron picnic.

The gala event highlighted a full year of growth; starting from 'scratch' to its current status of being Travis' fully operational 'premier' C-17 operations and maintenance squadron.

The squadron's commander, Maj. Roger Law, opened the celebration with reflections on just how much we appreciate the families of the 945th and all reservists' families. He thanked them all for their support of and sacrifices for the Reserve's ultimate mission – to serve and protect on a global scale.

In attendance and adding to Major Law's comments were the wing commander, Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr., and Command Chief Master Sgt. Patricia Thornton. Both recognized that the families of all our brothers and sisters represent the backbone of our 349th cadre.

Chief Master Sgt. Gregory McGee, squadron superintendent, and Senior Master Sgt. Sherry Jensen, squadron first

sergeant, were up to their elbows and eyebrows in preparation. A minimum of two dozen family members helped set up tents, video slide-shows, arranged games, musical chairs, a bouncy cage for the kids, an arcade shooting gallery, balloon toss, not to mention the food. The food included a feast of lumpia, baked chicken, fried chicken, hot dogs, burgers, stir-fried vegetables, three types of rice, kung-pao chicken, potato and fruit salads. And, a DJ provided all types of music.

Both the 349th Family Readiness staff and 349th Mission Support Squadron services representatives attended to advise the 945th about support programs and 24/7 availability to answer questions for military and family members.

"What a great way to really appreciate how much family members are an integral part of the reserve unit. This was one day to remember the importance of their support - everyone could really experience the positive energy shared between family,



photo by Technical Sgt. Shinika L. Powell, 945th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Ms. Olivia Davidson (center) and LaToya (left) and Breanna Davidson (right), daughters of Technical Sgt. Kizer Davidson, 945th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron are looking at the C-17 auxiliary power unit, July 14.

unit members and the support agencies of our wing," said Master Sgt. Pam Silas, 349th Family Readiness office.

As a reminder to all squadrons planning on having a Family Day, be sure to contact Family Readiness, (707) 424-1616, so we can bring our fun goodies and raffles to make your Family Day special.

Ops Tempo high - remember to think, roll safe

by Master Sgt. Tony Barker
349th Wing Safety

Operations Tempo is up. There's an increase in the number of missions and sorties. Personnel and equipment are tasked at an all time high for the calendar year.

No matter the mission or a local, Travis Air Force Base aircrews take their jobs seriously and employ safety as part of each task. Having your seatbelts fastened and communication equipment secured before take off is all part of the checklists for safe operations.

Now consider the ground crews operating on Travis, using two- and four-wheel personal or government vehicles on the roads. Operating a vehicle on the busy streets of Travis AFB or the surrounding communities requires the full attention of the operator, but not a preflight safety checklist. At this point if you're thinking there's no comparison between flyers and drivers, just ask a flyer where they feel safer. There's a lot less traffic in the air, there's wingmen and there's rules.

How does ground vehicle traffic compare? The Air Force Traffic Safety Instruction 91-207, Travis Air Force Base Instruction 91-101 and California

Department of Motor Vehicles provide the rules. Vehicles are all equipped with seatbelts and other safety features. Lastly, passengers are certainly capable of acting as wingmen. One significant difference on the ground compared to flight, is that traffic is significantly greater on our local roads and highways.

Supporting safe operations of ground or flight vehicles require full attention.

Distraction is one of the most common causal factors in most findings during traffic mishap safety investigations. Keeping eyes on the road, employing all available safety features and passengers acting as true wingmen are certainly the best approach to staying safe on the roads.

As a high interest area of the leadership at Travis, the 60th and 349th Wing Safety office personnel routinely conduct traffic safety spot observations. A recent one hour spot observation made in the middle of the day by 349th Safety personnel yielded mixed results with 260 military drivers and 209 civilian drivers recently observed. Seat belts are the usual suspect and compliance was found at the expected one-percent of each category not wearing seat belts. An additional observation was



compliance with the use of hands-free devices if using a cellular phone while driving. Of the military drivers observed, 18 percent were found using cell phones without hands free. Of the civilian drivers, four percent were found using cell phones without hands free. Several compliance observations were unable to be conducted due to vehicles forward side windows tinted beyond original factory specifications, which, in the state of California, is a violation of the vehicle code. Lastly, an encouraging observation was motorcycle safety. Out of 11 military motorcycle riders observed, all 11 were in compliance with the traffic safety personal protective equipment requirements of brightly colored outer upper garments and other related safety gear.

Considering the area of operations and amount of traffic involved, one can understand the claim of flyers feeling safer in the skies. However, ground traffic safety can be as safe if we employ the same tactics while operating ground vehicles similar to pilots for flight. Use your safety belts, secure your communication devices to place full attention to the task of driving and lastly, passengers should keep drivers in check and act as wingmen to ensure everyone gets to 'point B' alive.

Health care plan to cost less for Reservists in October

Reservists began signing up Aug. 11 for more affordable Tricare Select Reserve health care that starts Oct. 1. For some, it means they will pay a third of what they are paying today.

"All drilling reservists, will have access to the health-care benefit at its lowest premium rate," said Lt. Col. Alexander Alex, Air Force Reserve Command's health benefits manager. "Interested reservists, including those who are currently enrolled in Tricare Reserve Select, must fill out a newly developed Defense Department Form 2896-1 to take part in this restructured program."

In the 2007 National Defense Authorization Act, Congress told the Defense Department to restructure the plan's three-tier payment system, which has been in effect since 2006. Dr. David S.C. Chu, deputy secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, signed the new policy Aug. 3.

Under the system that ends Sept. 30,

only reservists on or recently returned from a contingency operation qualify for Tier 1 - the lowest cost premium.

Reservists in Tier 3 pay the most each month - \$247 for the reservist alone and \$767.41 for the reservist and family. They include people who haven't been in a contingency recently, who are not self-employed, who work for an employer who offers a health care plan, or who do not qualify for unemployment compensation as determined by state law.

As of Oct. 1, all drilling reservists will pay the lowest premium, \$81 a month for single coverage. Monthly premiums for reservists and families will be \$253. Tricare will adjust premiums annually on Jan. 1.

"We've been working hard for years to improve health-care benefits for all reservists, and this is a big step in that process," said Maj. Gen. Allan R. Poulin, AFRC's vice commander. "One of its huge benefits is the pharmacy program," he said. "If used wisely, members can get a

90-day supply of medicine for \$3 per prescription."

Another plus to the plan is its \$1,000 catastrophic cap, among the lowest in the industry, according to Colonel Alex. He also encourages reservists to visit the web site to find out more information.

About 11,500 members of the reserve components across all services are enrolled in Tricare Reserve Select. Colonel Alex said these people will be required to re-enroll in the program using a DD Form 2896-1 if they want to keep their coverage.

To begin the application process, reservists should visit the Reserve Web portal at <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/appj/tsa/index.jsp>. DOD officials said they are looking into a simpler application process.

For more specific information, people can go to the Tricare Reserve Select Web site at: <http://www.tricare.mil/reserve/reserveselect/> or contact the Air Reserve Personnel Center toll free at 800-525-0102 or DSN 926-6730. (AFRC News Service)

PROMOTIONS**Chief Master Sergeant**

Daniel G. Willers, 349th EMS

**Senior Master Sergeant**John A. Munson, 349th MXG
James V. Grant, 312th AS
Richard R. Griego, 349th AMDS**Master Sergeant**Rhonda F. Rooney, 349th MDS
Stanley John, 55th APS
William Clark, 349th SFS
Justin J. Toomsen, 312th AS**Technical Sergeant**Brian C. Dooley, 349th CS
Timothy A. Cheeseborough, 749th AMXS
Tristina L. Senter, 349th ALCF
Kenneth M. Macasaet, 349th MXG
Amanda S. Gaudet, 312th AS**Staff Sergeant**Hector Vargas, 349th AMDS
Joseph Y. Lopez, 349th CS
Tiffany R. Padilla, 349th CS
Melba C. Gavina, 349th MSS
Virgil K. Bandy III, 349th AMXS
Cheryl E. LeBlanc, 349th CMS
Nicole L. Mirlohi, 349th EMS
Kevin K. O'Connell, 349th EMS
Marci A. Bloomenrader, 349th EMS
Philip R. Carney, 349th MXG
Jonathan D. Caraballo, 945th AMXS
Charles R. Cummings, 301st AS
Frank A. Pellegrini, Jr., 312th AS
De Von Hilliard, 349th AES**Senior Airman**

Joshua T. Brinkman, 349th CS

**Airman First Class**Yolanda M. Jones, 349th MDS
Harold E. Andrews, Jr., 349th CS
Skye T. Peterson, 70th ARS
Nicholas A. Rowell, 349th AES**Airman**Stephanie R. Worden, 55th APS
Lauren C. E. Wallace, 349th AES**All promotions effective Aug. 1, 2007****LIEUTENANT COLONEL****Name****Unit****Date**

ANDRE, ANTHONY C	301 AS	18-Jun-08
BEVER, JOHN M	312 AS	1-Oct-07
BOUCHER, DONALD E II	55 APS	21-Aug-08
BUTTS, CARLA	70 ARS	1-Oct-07
CARPENTER, RODNEY M	312 AS	1-Oct-07
CASEBEER, MICHAEL C	301 AS	18-Jun-08
CHIAPUSIO, RODNEY A	312 AS	1-Oct-07
CLIFTON, ERIC C	79 ARS	1-May-08
CORCORAN, THOMAS J	312 AS	11-Sep-08
CURTIS, ROBERT S	312 AS	1-Oct-07
DOLLESIN, RONALD A (PV)	349 AMXS	2-Aug-07
DREW, MICHAEL L	312 AS	1-Oct-07
ELLIOTT, JOSEPH B	70 ARS	1-Oct-07
FISHER, MAURICE H	301 AS	29-Mar-08
GOERKE, KARL E	349 OG	1-Oct-07
JENKINS, ERIC P	70 ARS	1-Oct-07
LLOYD, GREGORY F	301 AS	1-Oct-07
MARKOWSKI, DARRYL L	312 AS	1-Oct-07
MCANANEY, JEANINE M	312 AS	1-Oct-07

Name**Unit****Date**

MCARTHUR, KIMBERLY S	349 OSF	1-Oct-07
MEYER, RUTH	312 AS	1-Oct-07
MOFFAT, SCOTT M	70 ARS	1-Oct-07
PAYTON, BRENT ALBAN	349 MXG	20-Apr-08
RAIRDAN, TODD G	79 ARS	1-Mar-08
RICHERT, SIEGFRIED T	749 AMXS	1-Oct-07
SNYDER, JAMES A	349 LRF	1-Jun-08
TAYLOR, CHARLENE M	349 AMDS	2-Oct-07
WADDINGTON, JAMES F	349 CMS	1-Oct-07
WHITE, ADRIAN K	70 ARS	5-Nov-07
WIENKER, SCOTT A	79 ARS	26-Apr-08
WIENKER, STEPHEN	79 ARS	1-Jun-08
WOLF, DENNIS P.	301 AS	1-Oct-07
YEATMAN, JOHN	79 ARS	1-May-08

**MAJOR****Name****Unit****Date**

HODDE, HERBERT III	349 AMW	2-Aug-07
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UNIT VACANCIES

AFSC	AFSC Title	Grade	#	AFSC	AFSC Title	Rank	#
11M3A	Mobility Pilot, C-5	Officer	1	3E451	Utilities System	SSgt/TSgt	1/1
11M3K	Mobility Pilot, C-17	Officer	7	3E472	Liquid Fuel Sys Maint	TSgt	1
1A071	In-Flight Refueling	TSgt	1	3E551	Engineering	SSgt/TSgt	1/1
1A151	Flight Engineer	SSgt	3	3E651	Operations Mgmt	SSgt	1
1A251	Aircraft Loadmaster	SSgt/TSgt	2/2	3E751	Fire Protection	SSgt	1
1A271	Aircraft Loadmaster	MSgt	1	3E851	Explosive Ord Disposal	SSgt	4
1C371	Command Post	TSgt	1	3E891	Explosive Ord Disposal	SMSgt	1
1N071	Operations Intel	TSgt/SMSgt	1/1	3E891	Explosive Ord Disposal	CMSgt	1
1T071	Surv, Evas, Resist & Esp	TSgt	1	3E951	Readiness	SSgt	1
21R3	Logistics Readiness	Officer	3	3S051	Personnel	SSgt	4
2A551J	Aerospace Maint, C-5	SSgt	8	3S271	Education & Training	MSgt	1
2A551L	Aerospace Maint, KC-10	SSgt	10	41A3	Health Services Admin	Officer	4
2A553A	Intergrated Avonics Sys	SSgt	2	42G3	Physician Assistant	Officer	1
2A571	Aerospace Maintenance	TSgt	1	44F3	Family Physician	Officer	2
2A573A	Intergrated Avonics Sys	TSgt	1	44M3	Internist	Officer	5
2A651A	Aerospace Propul, Jet Eng	SSgt	12	44Y3	Critical Care Medicine	Officer	1
2A654	Aircraft Fuel System	SSgt	3	45A3	Anesthesiologist	Officer	1
2A655	Aircraft Hydraulic System	SSgt	2	45B3	Orthopedic Surgeon	Officer	1
2A656	Aircraft Elect & Envir Sys	SSgt	1	46F3	Flight Nurse	Officer	5
2A671A	Aerosp Propul, Jet Eng	MSgt	1	46N3	Clinical Nurse	Officer	4
2A753	Aircraft Stuctural Maint	SSgt	1	46N3E	Clinical Critical Nurse	Officer	2
2E153	Ground Radio Comm	SSgt/TSgt	1/2	47G3A	Dentist, Comprehensive	Officer	1
2E173	Ground Radio Comm	MSgt	1	48A3	Aerospace Medicine	Officer	2
2T251	Air Transportation	SrA/SSgt	10/15	48R3	Diagnostic Radiologist	Officer	4
2T271	Air Transportation	MSgt/SMSgt	3/1	4A091	Health Service Mgmt	SMSgt	1
2T351	Spec Veh & Equip Maint	SSgt	1	4A151	Medical Material	SSgt/TSgt	1/2
32E3G	General Civil Engineer	Officer	1	4N091	Aerospace Medical Svc	SMSgt	2
3E051	Electrical Sys	SSgt	1	5J071	Paralegal	SSgt/TSgt	1/1
3E052	Electrical Power Production	SSgt	1				

For more information about these vacancies, go to <https://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/afpcsecure/MainMenu.asp>.

Positive...

(Continued from Page 8)

successfully established a local LULAC council – LULAC Chapter 349. Because it is the only LULAC chapter that has been established within the DoD and is made up of predominantly military members, it is considered to be unique in its kind. The Chapter has maintained a preliminary focus on education of youth through a scholarship program supporting local graduating seniors as well as ending substance abuse among Hispanic youth.

“Hispanic immigrants who were among the earliest are now among the most recent to arrive in this haven of liberty and human rights, and I urge all Americans to reflect on the invaluable contributions they have made to the greatness, the diversity, and the strength of this nation.” (Jimmy Carter, 1980.)

Hispanics have and will continue to have a lasting impression on mainstream American culture. As Americans, we should embrace this culture. It is a part of our history and it will become a major part of our future.



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